Additional Bogies for ladies in Local/ EMU trains

2922. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to add at least one more bogie exclusively for ladies in local/EMU trains and one first class bogie too, in order to augment the capacity of commuters and office goers;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) However, augmentation of the load of trains is a continuous process on the Railways depending upon the traffic justification, availability of coaches and operational feasibility.

Inauguration of East Coast Railway Zone

2923. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minis ter of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of the seven new Railway Zones created by the Ministry of Railways recently, the headquarters of the oldest Zone, namely East Coast Rail ways, was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister at Bhubaneswar on 8th August, 1996;

(b) if so, whether it was declared that the East Coast Railway Zone should be comprised of 3 divisions of S.E. Railway, viz. Khurda Road, Sambalpur and Vis-hakhapatnam; and

(c) if so, why no official notification has been issued so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Jurisdiction of the new Zone has not yet been finalised. Also, before an official notification is issued, certain important aspects, which includes infrastructural developments, arc required to be completed. The Zones have been planned to be set up in a phased manner over a period of five years.

Customs and excise levies on imports by the Railways

2924. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways pay huge customs and excise levies on its imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to persuade the Finance Ministry to remove the anomalies to attract private investment in Railway projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Indian Railways paid an amount of Rs. 420.41 crores approximately as custom duty on imports durirg 1998-99. No excise duty is leviable on imports.

(c) Does not arise.

Funds for development of Railway Zones in Andhra Pradesh

2925. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has demanded more funds from Rail Budget for development of Railway Zones touching that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in a recent letter has requested additional funds for the following projects:

(i) Secundrabad-Nizamabad-Mudkhed-Jankampet-Bodhan- Gauge Conversion